

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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AUGUST 1968

Stafford Elected I. C. C. Moderator

Rev. Dr. Russell Henry Stafford, Columbia, Conn., president-emeritus of the Hartford Seminary Foundation, was elected moderator of the International Congregational Council meeting at Hartford, Conn., July 2-10.

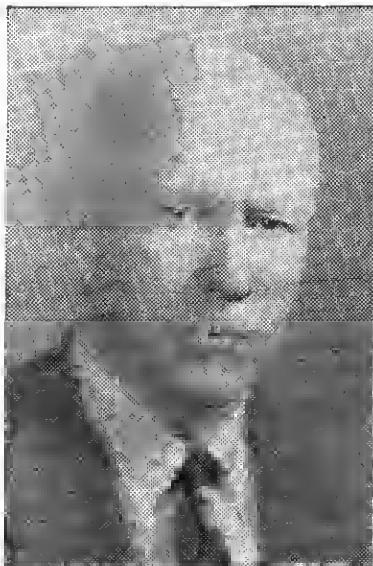
Dr. Stafford, formerly vice-moderator of the International Congregational Council, was the unanimous choice of the 450 delegates attending the international meeting in Hartford.

The new moderator was inducted into office on July 10, the closing day of the quinquennial assembly. Sessions of the I. C. C. were held at the Hartford Seminary Foundation and Congregational Churches of the city.

Previously a pastor of Congregational Christian Churches in Brooklyn, N. Y., Minneapolis, Minn., St. Louis, Mo., and of Old South Church, Boston, Mass., Dr. Stafford was president of the Hartford Seminary Foundation from 1945 to 1958. From 1940 to 1950 he served as president of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Other officers of the International Congregational Council, all re-elected, are the Rev. Ralph F. G. Calder, London, England, minister and secretary; Miss Dorothy J. Biggs, London, assistant secretary; the Rev. Arthur S. Wheelock, White Plains, N. Y., treasurer; Kenneth W. Thorndyke, Nottingham, England, assistant treasurer; and the Rev. Sidney M. Berry, London, honorary consultant.

Rev. W. K. Grobel was the official delegate of the S. E. Convention to the meeting and Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn the alternate. President Walter A. Graham attended the sessions. Miss Stevetta Green and Mr. John Atkinson were youth representatives to the meeting.



DR. RAY E. PHILLIPS



MRS. RAY E. PHILLIPS

Missionary Is General Council Moderator

With the election of The Rev. Dr. Ray E. Phillips, the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches for the first time in its history chose a missionary as its moderator.

Dr. Phillips was the unanimous choice of the more than 2000 delegates to the General Council. He took office at the closing session of the meeting, succeeding the Honorable George B. Hastings, an attorney of Grant, Nebraska.

For the past 40 years Dr. Phillips has been a Congregational Christian social worker in South Africa. In 1940 he founded the famous Jan H. Hofmeyr School of Social Work and since then has served as its director.

During his service in Africa he founded the Pathfinder movement and saw it develop into a Boy Scout organization of more than 16,000 youngsters. Interestingly enough, Mrs. Phillips

served as national president of the African Girl Guides, an organization with a membership of 36,000 girls.

Dr. and Mrs. Phillips were married in 1915, and two years later sailed for South Africa as missionaries under the American Board. He is a graduate of Carleton College and Yale Divinity School. Mrs. Phillips also is a graduate of Carleton College, and has served on the faculty of the Hofmeyr School.

Dr. and Mrs. Phillips have three children: John, the oldest, an associate professor of astronomy at the University of California; James, a scientist working on a nuclear project at Los Alamos, N. M., and Dr. Ruth Phillips Trotter, a specialist in pediatrics and wife of a doctor in Cambridge, Mass. (A son, Donald, lost his life while flying with the South African Air Force in World War II.)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK

September 28 - October 5

Soon we will be celebrating Christian Education Week again in our churches. This is a special week set aside for special emphasis on the church's program in Christian Education, and observed by all denominations. How will your church celebrate? Here are a few ideas to remember and some suggestions for observing this week.

According to Dr. Stock, General Secretary of the Division of Christian Education, "Christian Education is a means by which the church initiates persons of all ages into its fellowship and nurtures them in the heritage and mission of the Christian church so that they are enabled to mature as Christian personalities." So, Christian education includes the total educational program of the church as it reaches those of all ages within the fold. And we must acquaint our people with this program, and enlist their ideas and assistance. A few ways of doing this are listed below:

1. **Observe Christian Education Sunday, September 28, 1958.** A complete Sunday morning service emphasizing The Educational Program of the Church might include — a sermon on "the Educational Task of the Church" (telling what your church IS doing and SHOULD be doing), a dedication service for teachers and congregation, special recognition of the faithful work of the teachers and other leaders, and promotion of pupils. This is the Sunday before the beginning of a new quarter, and a suitable time for rededication on the part of teachers, pupils, and congregation. It is also the time for the reorganization of the church classes and youth groups as it is being done now in the public schools.

2. This is the time for an **Evaluation of its Program** on the part of the church. This may be done by the Christian education committee, the General Board of the church, or other groups. A church should do this at least once

a year to be able to better plan its future program.

3. The programs in **Women's Fellowship and Laymen's Fellowship** should be on some phase of Christian education or on YOUR church's program of Christian education. Both of these groups need to see their part in this program and make definite plans for their participation in the church's program of education. There are several programs on Christian Education in the new Women's Fellowship Program Booklet 1958-1959.

4. The **Pilgrim Fellowship** program could also be along the lines of this week. How many of your young people know the total educational program of his church? Perhaps they would like to study it by doing research, or by inviting church workers — minister, youth advisor, chairman of the Christian education committee, music director, superintendents — to make up a panel to explain their work. This is also a chance to create interest in church vocations as a career for the young people.

5. **A Church Family Night.** This could be held sometime during the week when families could come to the church for an evening emphasizing the educational work of the church. Perhaps a panel of church workers might tell about their work and the part which the church people must play in supporting them. A film on family life and the church or on church vocations might be shown. A family night is a chance for families to have fun and do things together at the church.

So let's all celebrate **Christian Education Week** in our churches! Let us take stock of our work, make plans, and move forward toward the building of God's kingdom in our own communities!

Shirley N. Berry
Chairman of the SEC
Christian Education Com.

Napoleon III acquired such skill in the art of lying that you could not even depend upon the exact contrary of what he said.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Even tho some of your fondest dreams fail to materialize, you can be thankful that many of your nightmares don't come true, either.

—Anonymous

A Report From The Joint National Council

by JOHN HENLEY

As Faith Chairman of the Southeast Convention PF, I was a delegate to the Joint National Council at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, June 20-27, 1958, and a member of the Faith Commission at the Council. Meeting with PFers and YFers (E & R) from all over the nation was very enlightening.

The members of the Faith Commission studied the statement of Purpose, concentrating on the Faith section. We decided on the area of concern and from these we selected our emphases for the next two years.

These emphases are Personal Devotions, studying and putting them to use; Science and Religion, the areas where the two agree or disagree and why; Church History and Heritage, a study of both E and R and Congregational Christian churches in order that we may better understand each other and our reasons for merging; and Meaning and Purpose of Life, helping each other understand life's meaning and objectives.

All the work was first done by first discussing it in cubes. Cubes are groups of twelve people (there are nine cubes in a commission). The thoughts and ideas of each cube were then reported in the commission meeting. The commission drew up a report, which each cube took to its subplenary meeting. A subplenary is a meeting of three cubes, one from each commission, where each cube submits its commission report so as to cut down the confusion of the plenary meeting. The findings of the subplenaries are brought back to the commission for discussion and then the commission report, revised if necessary, is presented to the whole Council in the plenary meeting to be put to a vote.

Going through the channels this way made the work move much faster and let everybody have a chance to get his ideas in. The Council was a great experience for me and each commission has great emphases for the next Biennium.

The louder he talked of his honour,
the faster we counted the spoons.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD LEAVEN

By RAY GIBBONS

III. International Relations

My other brief report is about our project in international relations. This week we have a group of 35 at a Washington Seminar. I heard Dr. Fred Buschmeyer, formerly associate secretary of our General Council, now head of the Washington office of the National Council of Churches, say that today a Christian could not love his neighbor as himself without the help of the State Department. Our neighbors in Christ may live in Egypt, in Algeria, in South Korea or Iran. How can we be Good Samaritans to them in their poverty of \$100 a year income, their disease which brings cholera and malaria and bilharzia, and death at an early age? How? By sharing our know-how on medicine, education, agriculture. By giving loans for economic development. By trading with them on mutually advantageous terms. These 1,200,000,000 people are the 19 nations which have become free from colonialism since World War II, which strive for freedom and a rising standard of living. Like India some are prepared to put in \$8 of their own for every \$1 loaned them from abroad. All desperately need capital to make a start on power development, health and education — essentials to development of a free economy. In one \$4,000,000,000 so-called Foreign Aid bill is about \$700,000,000 for economic assistance. It is about 2% of our military budget and only 1% of our total budget. But this microscopic leaven has in it the potency to raise the lump for millions. Some argue it will increase our own markets and it will. These so-called underdeveloped nations have doubled their purchases from us since the war. But there is also a moral reason. In these nations of "heightened expectation" live the future Einsteins, Ghandis and Schweitzers. When we help such neighbors we do not make a "hand-out" or a "give-away" but an investment. We love our neighbors as ourselves.

The Council for Christian Social Action has been making a major effort on behalf of this program. We have formulated a statement for study in the churches and consideration by the General Council on U. S. Foreign Economic

Policy. We have a packet of resource materials on the subject (5c each). We have selected prepared speakers for use in the churches. Our international relations secretary has testified before the House and Senate Committees and is now speaking to interdenominational gatherings in the mid-west and on the West coast, as he spoke in Avon Park at your very successful social action institute in February. The leaven is being put on the meal. Who knows how many millions of lives it will lift and bless!

All this and much more is being done unitedly in the United Church of Christ. I can testify that if the other boards and agencies and conferences have as rewarding an experience as we have had the union will be a tremendous success. The problems are merely challenges to be met and the gain in merging experience and the reinforcement of concerned members and staff is tremendously heartening. But the union is not an end. It is a means for a much greater end — that we might better fulfill the mission that Christ has given us — to make disciples of all mankind.

How much do we believe in the leaven? When the wrongs to labor, immigrants, races, and foreigners were large the voices of conscience were small. Would the leaven conquer the meal? Today, when the powers of mass communication in T. V. and radio are massive, will the questions raised by church publications like SOCIAL ACTION be heard? Ah, but there is POWER in the leaven. If we believe in Christ we have faith that there is a new order of life always ready to break in upon this present order. The Kingdom is coming, coming into all our kingdoms of home, community, industry, agriculture, city, state and nation. As Christians we act in the knowledge of human sin but in the hope of God's grace. God is active in every period of human history to effect His transformations, His revolutions, and He is active now. "To respond and enter into what God is doing is the fundamental basis for Christian social action." —Rasmussen. It is the application of

REV. MELVIN DOLLAR ACCEPTS NEW POST

Rev. Melvin Dollar, native of Roanoke, Alabama, a son of the Southeast Convention, and from a long line of Christian Church ministers, has recently been elected Associate Superintendent of the Southern Convention. He will begin his new duties September 1.

At the present time Mr. Dollar is the minister of the Rosemont Congregational Christian Church, South Norfolk, Virginia. During his pastorate of approximately six years the church has grown in membership from 460 to 820 and has added a new educational building and remodeled the sanctuary.

In his new position Mr. Dollar will have primary responsibility for Stewardship and Evangelism and a general responsibility for the work of the churches in the Eastern Virginia and the Valley of Virginia Conferences. In addition he will have a special concern for Church Extension in the rapidly growing areas of eastern Virginia.

Mr. Dollar has served the United Church, LaGrange, the Daisy and Soddy Churches, and the Langdale Church in this convention. He attended The Southern Union College, Piedmont College, Elon College, graduating from the latter in 1939. His theological training was received at Duke Divinity School, from which he graduated in 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. Dollar and their daughter Sandra will make their home in the eastern Virginia area, possibly in Portsmouth, Va.

the leaven to the lump.

Our Christian World "leaven" includes Christian social action to transform the kingdoms of this world into the kingdom of God, or, more simply to put the leaven to work in the loaf of mankind — until the whole be leavened. It is scriptural. It is practical. It is our Christian mission.

(Third and concluding chapter of an address given by Dr. Raymond Gibbons, Director of the Council for Christian Social Action of the CC Churches, at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention, April 19-20, 1958 in Lanett, Ala. Preceding chapters available upon request.)

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Superintendent's Corner

There is more to getting The Southeast News ready for publication than one might at first think. I am rapidly discovering just how much work is involved. Heretofore, Mrs. Albright has prepared the paper, and has done so efficiently and artistically. You will just have to bear with me for a few issues and hope for the best.

If you have any suggestions for The Southeast News, I will be happy to receive them. This is YOUR magazine. I hope you will take a keen interest in it.

Now a quick change in thought—after attending the General Council in Boston I joined the family in Rhode Island for a brief vacation. Among other things, we went fishing on the cool, blue waters of Narragansett Bay. Mrs. Lightbourne and Jimmy caught the fish. I did better at golf. We hope to take another brief period of vacation before the next issue of the magazine is due. And we hope each of you is having a good summer.

The Superintendent's schedule —

August 24 — Pearson, Union Hill
August 31 — Demorest, Federated
September 7 — LaGrange, Hillside
September 9-12—Council for Christian Social Action, Cleveland, Ohio
September 14 — Hampton, County Line

Glimpses of the

International Congregational Council

By STEVETTA GREEN

The eighth assembly of the International Congregational Council met on the beautiful campus of the Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut, July 2-10. These were nine days of inspiring, thrilling, and wonderful experiences for me. I am at a complete loss to try to describe the Council; it is something that is FELT and cannot be expressed very well in writing.

This Council made me realize more fully than ever before just how big Congregationalism really is. It isn't something that exists just in the Southeast Convention nor in the United States, but it extends to the uttermost parts of the earth. It made me realize too, how big and wonderful and mighty is God. But then, we also had the realization of the vast mission field that lies ahead for the Church and what an enormous task is ours in making Christianity even bigger.

This eighth assembly was the first one to have a separate, organized youth section but I believe it will be a firmly established part of the I. C. C. henceforth. Rev. Ed Powers, our national secretary of youth work, did a splendid job as chairman of the youth section. Approximately sixty young people representing all areas of the U. S., plus the four corners of the world were present. The youth section was integrated into the total program of the I. C. C. with periods set aside for our own particular youth discussions and activities.

I feel that one of the most thrilling parts of the Council was the fellowship with people from all over the world. Here East and West, North and South, joined together in a spirit of Christian Unity. People of all races and colors were as one. And to get a dozen different accents and languages together at meal time was "jolly good sport". However, it did not take long to learn that the little differences among us were not nearly as great as the similarities.

We had the opportunity of hearing and meeting our distinguished world leaders, theologians, and writers. Most of our sessions were held at local

churches which gave us association with New England churches. On Sunday we could choose to go to any one of the seventeen Hartford churches. I chose South Church — just liked that name for some odd reason — and experienced one of the most impressive services I have ever attended.

The Fourth of July was a strongly patriotic day. Even the British cheered and joined in the singing of our national anthem. Then we stood as they sent praises to their queen. The Yank-ees even sang out on the chorus of "Dixie". That afternoon the youth section boarded a bus for an outing on Lake Sharon. We arrived there two hours later than we might have because one bus broke down and we got hung in the middle of a Fourth of July parade.

Sunday afternoon the youth section was in charge of an area youth rally at West Hartford Church. One night we had a banquet at the Jewish Temple. I was simply fascinated at its magnificence. Here we were fortunate to meet and hear the Governor of Connecticut.

You will be interested to know that Miss Marguerite Davison was there. She is still keenly interested in the Southeast Convention and remembers everybody.

In one of the youth discussions we discovered that we had a common mind concerning the inadequacies of the worship of the Council. We felt we were not having enough periods of worship and meditation so we organized an early morning noncompulsory chapel, inviting the adults to attend if they liked. This proved to be one of the most inspiring periods of the day.

This and much more was I. C. C. and only once in five years is this opportunity available. But it did not end with the last "Amen" of the benediction, for every person present took I. C. C. home with him in warm friendships and workable ideas.

One of the surest of all truths is that life will give you no more than you give it.

—Norman Vincent Peale

PEOPLE CHURCHES EVENTS

FREDONIA CHURCH MOVES FORWARD

"The law of the Medes and Persians that altereth not" is a quotation that is practical at the Fredonia Congregational Church, Barnesville, Georgia. Years ago, an edict went forth that on the third Sunday in June each year there should be a Homecoming at the church when friends might assemble for a season of fellowship and spiritual refreshing.

On the last Sunday, June 15, 1958, there was an unusually large gathering of people renewing old acquaintances and enjoying the get together.

The Rev. S. D. Nelson, pastor of the church, preached at the morning worship a spirit-filled sermon, after conducting a very impressive service in memory of Herbert J. Moye Sr., recently deceased. Mr. Moye's wife and children at this time presented to the church two handsome candlesticks and the cross. The candles were lighted by the late Mr. Moye's two small grandsons, dressed all in white.

Following a bountiful lunch spread on tables under the oaks, the day's program was concluded with a short program by the children and an enjoyable song fest.

Beginning Monday, June the 16th, the Daily Vacation Bible School was conducted the following Friday. An attendance of forty met each day for Bible study, sacred literature, music, arts, crafts, and recreation and refreshments were not omitted. The committees on transportation, food and drinks, also teachers and directors were loyal and faithful.

On the Sunday following the church school, an interesting and instructive program was presented by the pupils who had attended the school and gained continuing information.

WORK CAMP IN PROGRESS

Eight boys, eight girls, Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Baldwin and daughter, Kathy, and the Rev. Miss Annie Campbell make up the Work Camp now in progress at The Southern Union College.

Part of the group will move on to Franklinton Center, Bricks, N. C., for the rest of August on the 18th.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW —

During this month Dr. and Mrs. David W. Shepherd and children, John, Joan, and Sharon, will move to Sanford, N. C., where Dr. Shepherd will assume the ministry of the Congregational Christian Church there. At the last session of the Southern Convention Dr. Shepherd was elected vice-president of that body.

* * * *

Rev. and Mrs. Carl Dollar and family of Bertha, Minnesota, will be moving to Holland, Virginia, this month. Mr. Dollar will serve the church formerly served by Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr.

* * * *

Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Lasseter have accepted the call to the Robbins Parish in Tennessee, and will be moving back to the Southeast Convention from Hopewell, Va., the first of September.

* * * *

Dr. Fred P. Ensminger fell and broke his leg several weeks ago while in Birmingham on business for Southern Union College. He is recuperating at the home of his son in Birmingham.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 16: S. E. Convention Board

September 28 - October 5: Christian Education Week

October 4 - 5: N. Alabama Association, Hackleburg, Fairview

October 6 - 7: Central Alabama Association, East Tallassee First

October 8 - 9: S. Ala. - N. W. Florida, Headland, Blackwood

October 11 - 12: Kentucky-Tennessee Conference
(Place to be announced)

October 15: East Alabama Association, Mt. Zion

October 16: East Alabama Association, Noon Day

October 17 - 18: Georgia-S. Carolina Conference, Columbus, United

Time is the inevitable executioner; a thief who sneaks away with our youth.

—David Condon

Women's Retreats

The annual Retreats of the three Women's Fellowship groups of the convention have been held during the summer months.

The theme for the gatherings has been "What Doth the Lord Require?" and the materials for use in the local groups during the year were presented.

Mrs. R. J. Jones of Cardiff, Wales, Secretary of the Welsh Congregational Women's Movement, was a keynote speaker at each of the meetings.

Miss Miriam Heermans of Pleasant Hill spoke on "Tours with a Purpose", telling of experiences in Mexico and Hawaii.

Retreats were held for the women of Kentucky-Tennessee, Georgia-South Carolina, and Alabama-N. W. Florida.

Chattanooga Breaks Ground

On Monday, July 28, at 8:30 a. m. a group of members of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, met at the site of the new church building and the ground was broken.

A contract for the construction of the new church building, which is to be contemporary in design, has been awarded. It is hoped that the building will be completed in approximately a year.

Georgia-South Carolina Summer Conference

The Georgia-South Carolina Summer Conference is in progress at the Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain, Ga.

The dates of the camp are August 17-23.

The Reverend Sammy Nelson is serving as dean. President and Mrs. Walter A. Graham and family are attending. Others on the faculty include Mrs. Carl Sanford, Rev. and Mrs. William Taylor, Rev. Raymond Berry, Rev. Wesley Martin, Rev. Earl Hand, and Rev. Henry Abbott.

Student Summer Service Workers

Misses Martha Kirby, Phoebe Pemberton, Mary Sue Johnson, and Peggy Hammock have been serving many of our churches this summer as Student Summer Service Workers, conducting Daily Vacation Bible Schools.



DR. WILLIAM R. BARNHART

Dr. William R. Barnhart Called To Charleston

Dr. William R. Barnhart will begin his ministry at the historic Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, S. C., on September 1.

Formerly Executive Secretary of the Federation of Churches in Washington, D. C., Dr. Barnhart has recently served as chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Hood College, Frederick, Md. Hood College is an institution of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Dr. Barnhart received his education at Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. He has served as professor of religion and philosophy at Pacific University.

Through the years Dr. Barnhart has been a member of a number of Preaching Mission Teams and University Christian Mission Teams sent out by the National Council of Churches. He is a member of the National Association of Biblical Instructors, the American Philosophical Association, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

Dr. and Mrs. Barnhart have two daughters, Mrs. Rhys Williams, the wife of the minister of the Unitarian Church in Charleston, and Miss Joanne Sanford Barnhart.

Mrs. Albright Presented With Gift Of Silver

At a surprise luncheon held in her honor during the June meeting of the Board of Directors of the Convention, Mrs. E. A. Albright was presented with a silver serving dish by Mrs. Arnold Slater, Moderator.

The gift was made to Mrs. Albright in the name of the churches of the Southeast Convention.

After serving the convention almost ten years, Mrs. Albright has been forced to resign because of her health.

Mrs. Albright expressed her deep appreciation for the gift and for the friendship of the people and the churches of the Southeast Convention.

The following resolution of appreciation to Mrs. Albright has been made a part of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1958.

A RESOLUTION

"The Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches in its annual meeting hereby expresses its deep appreciation to Mrs. Montez G. Albright for her years of dedicated service as Registrar, Assistant Treas-



From left to right: John Henley, Pete Sanford, Patsey Yancey, and Frank Little, who attended the Joint National Youth Council in June.



Mrs. Arnold Slater presents silver dish to Mrs. E. A. Albright while Supt. Lightbourne looks on.

urer of the Convention, and Managing Editor of The Southeast News. It is with keenly felt regret that her resignation is reluctantly accepted.

"Through the years of her faithful and efficient service, Mrs. Albright has become the friend of the churches and of countless numbers of officers and ministers within the churches. Three different Superintendents and three Ministers of Christian Education have depended on her efficient office management which freed them for wider direct service to the churches.

"Mrs. Albright has given of her time and talents to the position without regard for the hours and the effort expended. Truly, she, many times has gone the 'second mile.'

"The Southeast News has developed into a monthly news magazine for the churches characterized by its high quality and the interesting variety of its contents. It has attracted appreciative notice throughout the denomination. This has been due to the ability and interest Mrs. Albright brought to her duties as Managing Editor.

"The Southeast Convention feels that it has been fortunate to have the services of Mrs. Albright through these years and wishes God's richest blessings on her in the future."